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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: February 2005

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CROP AND FARM ACTIVITIES

Varying amounts of rain and snow fell across the Commonwealth in February. The mixed precipitation and above freezing temperatures brought muddy conditions to the state. These conditions hindered manure spreading and small grain top dressing activities. Spring calving has started. Some livestock deaths have been attributed to the damp and muddy conditions. Farming activities included soil sampling, applying lime (when weather permitted), tax preparation, moving on-farm stored corn and soybeans to grain elevators, supply ordering and pickup, and attending marketing and crop insurance meetings

WEATHER

Significant moisture and varying temperatures basically sum up the month of February in the Commonwealth. Throughout the month there were some parts of Virginia that faced rain showers, while other areas experienced snow showers. Above freezing temperatures allowed frozen ground to thaw leading to muddy field conditions in fields.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	12	16	41	26	5
Livestock	1	5	27	60	7
Small Grain & Winter Grazing Crops	3	12	38	39	8

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT - WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	This Month	Last Month	Last Year	5 Year Average
Beef Cattle Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	14	26	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	4	12	NA	NA
Sheep Forage, % Obtained from Pastures	30	37	NA	NA